

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in
Ashill Village Hall on Monday 7th July 2025 at
7.30 pm**



Present : Cllrs P Varney (Chairman), R Fry, A Crouch and R Batty.

In attendance: L Gowers (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

20//25 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Neil Harvey (personal).

21/25 Casual Vacancy - to note the Parish Council has two Casual Vacancies to be filled by co-option.
Noted.

22/25 Chairmans' Opening Statement

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped that all were enjoying the hot weather.

23/25 Public Participation

One member of the public expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Cllrs. Fry and Varney outlined the role.

Unitary Councilor Osborne reported:

- Somerset Cllr. Mike Best would continue as Chair of Local Community Networks.
- Somerset Council were reviewing how LCNs worked as they did not have any budget nor any decision-making powers.
- The Boundary Commission consultation was now open until 1st August. It was suggested that if the Parish was happy with the proposed changes, then the Parish should comment.

24/25 Declarations of Interests

None

25/25 Co-option: To consider the application of Susan Hopkins to the Parish Council and accept her if appropriate by a show of hands.

**It was unanimously resolved to co-opt Susan Hopkins to the Parish Council.
Susan Hopkins joined the meeting.**

26/25 Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th May 2025.
It was RESOLVED for the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025 to be agreed & signed as a true record.

27/25 Finance.

a) To receive the latest finance report.

Received and Noted

b) To note that bank reconciliation reports for Quarter 1 have been completed.

Noted.

c) To note the following payments made/due since the May meeting:

Date Paid	Payment type	Description	Total	Account Balance
13-May-25	BAC	Somerset Council – CIL payment	1323.34	16101.81
14-May-25	BAC	Ticket Source - Tickets VE Day event	957.22	17059.03
16-May-25	DPC	G Turner Hog Roast, VE Day event	-700	16359.03
21-May-25	D/D	EDF ENERGY	-33.68	16325.35

03-Jun-25	DPC	Somerset Community Foundation Return of grant	-663.18	15127.5
03-Jun-25	DPC	Zurich, Council Insurance	-518.67	15790.68
03-Jun-25	DPC	Ashill VH Hall Hire	-16	16309.35
17-Jun-25	D/D	EDF ENERGY	-45.4	15082.1
20-Jun-25	DPC	Ashill PC , Test of Lloyds account	-10	15072.1
27-Jun-25	DPC	Ashill Church, VE Day event	-701.11	13195.06
27-Jun-25	DPC	Ashill VH - VE Day event	-1175.93	13896.17
27-Jun-25	D/D	ICO Information Commissioners Office	-47	13148.06
		Clerks Salary	-569.68	
		HMRC – Clerks tax & NI	-142.20	

The payments were noted and wages for the Clerk were approved.

28/25 Planning

- a) **To note planning applications / notifications received since the last meeting along with any further applications available on the Somerset Council Planning Portal.**

25/01126/S73 Herron Barn Thickthorn Lane Ashill TA19 9LS

S73 Application to vary Condition 02 (approved plans) to allow design amendments relating to planning consent 24/00439/FUL; Demolition of existing barn and erection of a single dwelling (to replace approved Class Q Prior Approval 21/02468/PAMB) with associated works to form garden, parking area and boundary treatments in addition to installation of solar pv panels in the adjoining grassed area.

The Parish Council did not have any comments.

- b) **The following planning decision notices from Somerset Council were noted.**

25/01097/NMA Land West Of School Lane Ashill Iminster Somerset

Non-Material Amendment to approved application 24/01058/FUL for an amendment to the triple carport which serves plots 2, 3 & 4 to proposed hipped roof.

Decided – Changes do not constitute NMA and agreed within current planning permission.

25/00068/DOC1 Land West Of School Lane Ashill Iminster Somerset

Discharge of Conditions No. 8 (Drainage), No. 9 (Foul Water Drainage) and No. 16 (Street Lighting) of Planning Application 17/04328/OUT.

Conditions 8 and 9 Discharged.

29/25 Playing Field

- a) **To receive an inspection report for the playing field.**

Cllr Fry reported a total of 36 rabbits causing a lot of damage to the playing field. The resident graffiti artist has moved to other items on the playing field.

Cllr Crouch had repaired and painted the electrical box and also repaired the monkey bars. Cllr Crouch confirmed that he would get a price to replace all the bolts on the monkey bar frame.

- b) **To receive for consideration any other matters regarding the Playing Field.**

It was anticipated that the Somerset Council inspector would visit this month.

Cllr Fry suggested that the hedge required a trim and would organize an evening for this to happen.

30/25 Highways / Footpaths

To receive for consideration any matters regarding Highways / Footpaths.

It was reported that a carnival float was being built in a barn in the farm opposite the Baptist Church. A length of hedgerow had been removed and work on the float took place at weekends and evenings. Cllr Osborne noted that the land owner may need to apply for change of use. The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Enforcement Officer at Somerset Council.

31/25 Health / Environment / Parish Assets

a) To Review the use of Dog Bins in the parish and consider the payment to Somerset Council for emptying the bins

Cllr Fry had put some information on the digital "Village Pages" to ask for comments. The majority of comments were in favour of keeping the dog bins, particularly as there were many new houses being built in the village.
The cost of emptying the dog bins was discussed. It was noted that the Parish Council had not yet accepted the quote from Somerset Council. The Clerk suggested accepting the quote for this financial year and raising the question via the website and leaflet drops for a couple of months in the autumn to gauge village opinion. Cllr Hopkins suggested a poll via the "Village Pages" and a notice in the parish magazine. It was suggested that a response box should be placed in the bus shelter. The Clerk would contact Somerset Council and ask to be made aware of the day of the week that the bins are emptied.

b) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding Health / Environment / Parish Assets.

None.

32/25 Village Hall

To receive for consideration any matters regarding the Village Hall.

The Village Hall now had a new website and a new booking system had gone live. New contractors had recently been engaged to manage the Village Hall grounds.

33/25 Communication and processes

a) To receive any updates from the most recent LCN meeting or working groups.

Cllr Varney had received the dates for the forthcoming LCN meetings and agreed to attend.

b) To receive an update regarding matters from the Church.

The Parish Council had received a thank you letter from the Church for the donation from the VE Day event.

The Church Warden had resigned but a new warden had not yet been appointed as the committee was changing slightly.

c) To receive for consideration any other matters regarding communication / processes.

None

34/25 Action Status Report – Update on any outstanding actions.

The following items were discussed:

Tennis Courts: The surface requires pressure washing.

Southdown Farm Notice Board: The noticeboard did not require maintenance and Cllr Hopkins would populate it.

Mission statement: This would now be removed from the Action Status Report

Clerk to provide a run though for authorisation

Lloyds Bank: Cllrs Varney and Fry now had access and the Clerk would provide a "run-through" for authorisation.

Blocked drains in the Parish: ongoing .

Handrail loose at playing field: The handrail has been removed.

Play area: A volunteer evening would be organized to tidy up the play area.

Speed Mitigation in the village: The Clerk would get some quotes for a Speed Indicator Device to compare with the price for "Gates" for the village.

35/25 Next Meeting – to confirm the next meeting is to be held on Monday 1st September 2025.

The meeting closed at 21.12 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
1st September 2025